

A

èlǒ ló rà' Èlo ni o rã? How much did he pay for it?

B

márǔn five
 şilê mǎrǔn Şile marun. Five shillings.

A

wǒn expensive
 ó wǒn Ó wǒn. That's expensive.

B. NOTES.

1. Elision of mid verbs before a noun object that begins with a vowel.

Compare the expressions:

mō rǒkǒ 'I bought a spear' (ǒkǒ 'spear')
 mō rǒkǒ 'I bought a spade' (ǒkǒ 'hoe, spade')

In casual style, the quality, length and tone of the vowel of the verb stem are all lost before a noun object beginning with mid tone, just as they were (Unit 5) before a noun object beginning with a low tone.

2. A low verb in deliberate style followed by a mid tone initial vowel has mid tone.

mō rā ǒkǒ 'I bought a spear'
 mō rā ǒkǒ 'I bought a spade'

In deliberate style (i.e. where neither assimilation nor elision takes place) the tone of a 'basically' low verb before a noun object that begins with mid tone is mid. (cf. Unit 6)

3. n plus most vowels becomes l.

Compare the casual and deliberate forms:

kíní òjǒ... kílôjǒ...

There are in Yoruba a number of different elements all of which are spelled n. When one of these stands in deliberate style before a vowel other than i, then the corresponding utterance in casual style has l in place of n. The tone of the remaining vowel follows the rules for verb tones.

C. Exercises

1. Some useful nouns that begin with mid tone.

a. mid-high

òkọ́	'hoe, spade'	ā ròkọ́	ā rā òkọ́
òdó	'mortar'	ā ródó	ā rā òdó
ílá	'okra'		ā rā ílá
ìgbá	'calabash'	ā rāgbá	ā rā ìgbá

b. mid-mid

ēyīn	'egg'	ş'ō rēyīn	şé ō rā ēyīn
ēpō	'oil'	ş'ō rēpō	şé ō rā ēpō
ējā	'fish'	ş'ō rējā	şé ō rā ējā
īşū	'yam'	ş'ō rāşū	şé ō rā īşū

c. mid-low

ēyìn	'palm nuts'	ş'ē rēyìn	şé ē rā ēyìn
ōbẹ̀	'soup'	ş'ē rōbẹ̀	şé ē rā ōbẹ̀
āwò	'spectacles'	ş'ē rāwò	şé ē rā āwò
īyọ̀	'salt'	ş'ē rāyọ̀	şé ē rā īyọ̀

2. Second person singular subject vs. third person singular subject. Practice the following pairs so that when you hear either member of a pair, you can respond immediately with the other.

ēyìn	şó rēyìn	ó rēyìn
	ş'ō rēyìn	mō rēyìn
īşū	şó tāşū	ó tāşū
	ş'ō tāşū	mō tāşū
ōkọ	şó rōkọ	ó rōkọ
	ş'ō rōkọ	mō rōkọ

3. Tones of noun objects. Begin with either member of each pair.

ēyīn	mō rēyīn
ēyìn	mō rēyìn
òkọ	mō ròkọ
ōkọ	mō rōkọ

- D. Supplementary material: Some useful nouns, including common foodstuffs.

àgā	'chair'
àgbōn	'coconut'
èpà	'ground nuts'
ōkùn	'rope'
ātā	'pepper'
ērān	'meat'

1.	àgbṓn	ṣ'ṓ lágṓn	ṣé ṓ ní àgbṓn
	ẹ̀pà	ṣ'ṓ lẹ̀pà	ṣé ṓ ní ẹ̀pà
	òkùn	ṣ'ṓ lókùn	ṣé ṓ ní òkùn
	ātā	ṣ'ṓ látā	ṣé ṓ ní ātā
	ẹ̀rān	ṣ'ṓ lẹ̀rān	ṣé ṓ ní ẹ̀rān
2.			
	àgbṓn	ṣ'ṓ gbàgbṓn	ṣé ṓ gbā àgbṓn
	ẹ̀pà	ṣ'ṓ gbẹ̀pà	ṣé ṓ gbā ẹ̀pà
	òkùn	ṣ'ṓ gbòkùn	ṣé ṓ gbā òkùn
	ātā	ṣ'ṓ gbātā	ṣé ṓ gbā ātā
	ẹ̀rān	ṣ'ṓ gbẹ̀rān	ṣé ṓ gbā ẹ̀rān
3.	àgā	ṣ'ẹ̀ gbàgā	ṣ'ẹ̀ lágà
	àgbṓn	ṣ'ẹ̀ gbàgbṓn	ṣ'ẹ̀ lágṓn
	ẹ̀pà	ṣ'ẹ̀ gbẹ̀pà	ṣ'ẹ̀ lẹ̀pà
	òkùn	ṣ'ẹ̀ gbòkùn	ṣ'ẹ̀ lókùn
	ātā	ṣ'ẹ̀ gbātā	ṣ'ẹ̀ látā
	ẹ̀rān	ṣ'ẹ̀ gbẹ̀rān	ṣ'ẹ̀ lẹ̀rān

UNIT 9

A. BASIC DIALOGUE: 'Where are my books?'

A

háà

(expression of
surprise)

háà

Hǎ!

Hey!